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Rural Health Policy Council Office
Health & Welfare Agency
State of California

Rural Health Newscast

February 9, 1998

More Children Now Qualify for State Health Coverage

An estimated 1.6 million children in California currently do not have health coverage. To address this problem, Governor Wilson signed legislation in September 1997 streamlining eligibility for state health coverage to more of California's children. More children now qualify for health coverage as a result of changes to the no-cost Medi-Cal program and the introduction of a state subsidized low-cost insurance program called Healthy Families.

With the streamlined Medi-Cal program for children and implementation of the Healthy Families program, more of the families you work with will be able to provide their children with the health care they deserve. As a result, you may experience an increase in the number of clients you serve. Following are some details about these programs.

Streamlined Medi-Cal Program for Children

Changes to the Medi-Cal program for children, to be phased in between March and June 1998, include:

Effective March 1, 1998:

- ♦ "Resource Disregard" - children can get no-cost Medi-Cal based solely on income.
- ♦ Expansion of "no-cost" eligibility - children ages 14 to 18 now qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal if their family's income is at or below certain levels.

Effective June 1998:

- ♦ A consolidated mail-in Medi-Cal/Healthy Families application form.

Healthy Families Program *Effective July 1, 1998:*

In addition to the streamlined Medi-Cal Program for children, Governor Wilson also signed legislation to create the Healthy Families program under the direction of the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB). This new program offers low-cost health insurance to children from families whose incomes are between 100-200 percent of the federal poverty level. The program offers comprehensive health benefits, including vision and dental care, immunizations and regular preventive health care exams. Families will be able to select a health plan that best fits their needs. Low monthly premiums will be based on income, with minimal co-payments for most outpatient services.

Pre-enrollment for the Healthy Families program will begin in June 1998.

Outreach and Education

To help families learn about and apply for these new and streamlined state health programs for children, the Department of Health Services is launching a statewide outreach and education campaign in February 1998. The Campaign will focus initially on changes to Medi-Cal for children and phase-in information about the new Healthy Families program. The purpose of this campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of health care for children and the availabil-

ity of state programs.

The Campaign includes advertising, public relations, partnerships with CBOs and other activities to reach the target audiences.

For current information, visit our website at www.ruralhealth.ca.gov



Rural Demonstration Projects Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held the week of February 23rd in the Central Valley and the week of March 2 in Southern California to receive comment on the Healthy Families Rural Demonstration Projects (RDP). Previous meetings were held in Sacramento in November and Redding in December. At press time, exact dates and locations had not been selected. As soon as we receive the information, we will post it on our website at www.ruralhealth.ca.gov. If you have any questions, do not have access to the Internet, or want to know the status of the RDP, please call Anna Ramirez at (916) 654-0348.

Correction

In the February 9, 1998 edition of the Newscast, an incorrect phone number was published to request an application for the Federal Rural Network Development Grants and the Rural Health Outreach Grants. The correct phone number is 1-888-300-4772.

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Rural Health Services Small Grants Awards

Each successful applicant was awarded \$25,000, except as noted.

Alpine County EMS
Butte Valley Health Center
Campo Mountain Health Center
Camptonville Community
Service District (\$24,500)
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo
Coastal Health Alliance (\$24,973)
Coastal Medical Center
Colusa Family Dentistry
Community Health Center -
Lost Hills
Death Valley Health Center
Divide Wellness Center
Dixon Family Practice
Doctor's Office, The
El Dorado Co. Public Health
EOC Health Service of San Luis
Obispo County (\$22,990)
Gridley Family Health Center
Hamilton City Medical Center
Health Valley Medical Clinic
Imperial Co. Mental Health
Services
Inyo Co. Health & Human Serv.
Ivanhoe Family Healthcare
(\$24,985)
Kerman Health Center
Kings View Mental Health
Lake Co. Dept of Health

Livingston Co. Health Services
(\$24,990)
Long Valley Health Center
Los Robles Community Medical
Center
Mendocino Coast Clinics, Inc.
Mendocino Community Health
Center-Ukiah (2 sites,\$50,000)
Mobile Medical Office, The
Morongo Basin Mental Health
Mt. Shasta Medi-Cal Clinic
Nipomo Community Medical
Center
North County Health Services
(\$24,998)
Occidental Area Health Center
Orland Family Health Center
Porterville Family Healthcare
(\$24,985)
Redwood Coast Medical Serv.
Rodrigo Terronez Memorial Clinic
Russian River Health Center
Salud Clinic
San Andreas Family Practice
San Luis Obispo Co. Public Health
San Mateo Co. Health Services
(\$23,050)
Shasta Community Health Center
Sierra Family Medical Clinic

Southern Indian Health Council
St. John of God Healthcare Serv.
Tracy Family Practice
Tulare Co. Health & Human
Services Agency
Tulare Community Health Clinic
Wasco Medical & Dental Center
Woodlake Family Health Center
Youth Enrichment Services

Rural Health Policy Council Public Meeting

The magnificent Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sacramento will be the site of the March 20th public meeting of the Rural Health Policy Council. Secretary of the Health & Welfare Agency, Sandra R. Smoley, R.N., will chair the meeting.

This will be the third year in which this meeting has been held in conjunction with the Rural Healthcare Symposium. The Symposium is conducted by the Rural Healthcare Center. It is the second year in which the Policy Council has met in conjunction with the membership meeting of the California State

Rural Health Association.
The location of the Hyatt Regency is 1209 L Street, Sacramento, (916) 443-1234.
The schedule for the 3-day event is:

Thursday, March 19th

Noon - 5:00 pm
California State Rural
Health Association (CSRHA)
membership meeting
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Rural Healthcare Center
Reception in the Capitol
Rotunda

Friday, March 20th

9:00 am - 11:00 am
Rural Health Policy Council
Public Meeting
11:30 am - 7:30 pm
Rural Healthcare Symposium

Saturday, March 21st

8:00 am - Noon
Rural Healthcare Symposium
For a Symposium registration form,
please call (916) 552-7502.
For information on the CSRHA, call
(707) 826-8779.

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